

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.       For use in a media tape cartridge reel, a hub and flange  
2       assembly comprising:  
3                   a hub having a first lip and a second lip at opposite ends of the hub;  
4       and  
5                   a flange, wherein the flange is integral with the hub at the first lip,  
6       the hub comprises an inner coupling having a hole at the center, and the inner  
7       coupling is offset towards the first lip where integrated with the hub.
- 1                   2.       The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 further comprising  
2       a second flange wherein the second flange is joined to the hub/flange at the second  
3       lip.
- 1                   3.       The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the hub has  
2       a thickness between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a  
3       range of 10% to 50% of the thickness of the hub.
- 1                   4.       The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the hub has  
2       a thickness between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a  
3       range of 20% to 30% of the thickness of the hub.
- 1                   5.       The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the hub has  
2       a thickness between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is about  
3       25% of the thickness of the hub.
- 1                   6.       The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner  
2       coupling is hat-shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is  
3       substantially flush with the second lip.
- 1                   7.       The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner  
2       coupling is hat-shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is  
3       disposed in a direction opposite the first lip and past the second lip.

1                   8.     For use in a reel, a hub/flange comprising:  
2                   a hub having a first lip and a second lip at opposite ends of the hub;  
3     and  
4                   a flange, wherein the flange is integral with the hub at the first lip,  
5     and the hub comprising an inner coupling having a hole at the center and the inner  
6     coupling is offset towards the first lip where integrated with the hub.

1                   9.     The hub/flange of claim 8 further comprising a second flange  
2     wherein the second flange is joined to the hub/flange at the second lip.

1                   10.    The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the hub has a thickness  
2     between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 10%  
3     to 50% of the thickness of the hub.

1                   11.    The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the hub has a thickness  
2     between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 20%  
3     to 30% of the thickness of the hub.

1                   12.    The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the hub has a thickness  
2     between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is about 25% of the  
3     thickness of the hub.

1                   13.    The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the inner coupling is hat-  
2     shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is substantially  
3     flush with the second lip.

1                   14.    The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the inner coupling is hat-  
2     shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is disposed in a  
3     direction opposite the first lip and past the second lip.

1                   15.    A method of producing a hub/flange for use in a media tape  
2     cartridge reel, the method comprising:

3                    providing a hub having a first lip and a second lip at opposite ends  
4 of the hub; and  
5                    integrally forming a flange with the hub at the first lip, wherein the  
6 hub comprises an inner coupling having a hole at the center and the inner coupling  
7 is offset towards the first lip where integrated with the hub.

1                    16.     The method of claim 15 further comprising providing a second  
2 flange wherein the second flange is joined to the hub/flange at the second lip.

1                    17.     The method of claim 15 wherein the hub has a thickness  
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 10%  
3 to 50% of the thickness of the hub.

1                    18.     The method of claim 15 wherein the hub has a thickness  
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 20%  
3 to 30% of the thickness of the hub.

1                    19.     The method of claim 15 wherein the hub has a thickness  
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is about 25% of the  
3 thickness of the hub.

1                    20.     The method of claim 15 wherein the inner coupling is hat-  
2 shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is substantially  
3 flush with the second lip.